

REMARKS

These amendments and remarks are in response to the Board of Appeals decision (Appeal No. 1999-1693, dated November 29, 2001) affirming the Examiner's final rejection of claims 1-25 in the parent application. Applicants respectfully request examination of the application in view of the amendments above and remarks that follow. Applicants have deleted claim 9 and amended claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 14, 19, 24, and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have also added new claim 26.

I. Claim 1

The Examiner rejected claim 1 in the parent application as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,572,643 to Judson ("Judson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,469 to Pike ("Pike"). Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly describe the present invention and its help window. Applicants respectively submit that claim 1, as amended, is not made obvious by Judson in view of Pike at least because neither reference teaches or suggests "fourth computer readable code to present information to the user in the help window pertaining to the web page, wherein the information includes user-readable instructions that describe how to accomplish functions in the web page."

The invention in claim 1, as amended, is directed to a help system that is optimized for the network environment, particularly the world-wide-web environment. Claim 1 now requires at least two windows: (i) a web page window that includes a web page; and (ii) a help window that includes instructions that describe how to accomplish functions in the web page. In this way, the present invention presents a world wide web user with instructions that describe how to accomplish functions in a web page without replacing that page in the browser. This feature is highly desirable because a user can perform the acts suggested by the help page while viewing those instructions.

Docket No.: ROC919960172US2
Serial No.: 10/058,360

Conventional "web-help" systems, in contrast, required that the user navigate to a help page, then memorize the instructions contained therein, then hit the back button to return to the original web page, then wait for the browser to reload the original web page, then perform the suggested actions. This operation was awkward and extracted a heavy penalty in terms of both human and machine performance, particularly if the user needed to flip back and forth between the web page and the help information.

The Examiner and the Board have previously acknowledged that Judson fails to teach or suggest the help window of the present invention. Pike also fails to disclose this limitation. Instead, Pike describes an experimental program, called "Help", that combines aspects of window managers, shells, and editors to create a user interface. *Pike, at col. 1, lines 40-44*. This interface allows a user to perform shell operations by loading a text file with a list of commands and then clicking on the appropriate word. *Pike, at col. 5, lines 50-55*. However, this text file is only a list of commands that the shell can perform - that is, a glorified menu. *Id. at col. 5, lines 55-60*. Pike also provides a specific example at cols 7-8 of how its system can be used to create a simple integrated development environment (which Pike calls a "browser").

Unlike the present invention, however, the system in Pike only "helps" in the sense that it frees the programmer from having to write their own graphical menus. *Id. at col. 8, lines 56-63*. The command list in Pike does not "pertain[] to the web page," and certainly does not "include[] user-readable instructions that describe how to accomplish functions in the web page." Instead, the command list in Pike is simply a menu of local system shell functions, not help instructions, and does not relate to the content of any documents displayed in Pike's user interface, as opposed to the local shell. Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define the information of the present invention to be "user-readable instructions," and to clarify that these instructions are directed at the contents of the web page, as opposed to the browser or shell.

For at least the foregoing reason, Applicants respectively submit that claim 1, as amended, is not made obvious by Judson in view of Pike.

II. Claims 8, 14, 19, 24, and 25

The Examiner also rejected claims 8, 14, 19, 24, and 25 in the parent application as unpatentable over Judson in view Pike. These claims, as amended, contain limitations similar to those in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants also respectively submit that claims 8, 14, 19, 24, and 25 are not made obvious by Judson in view of Pike.

III. Claims 2-7, 10-13, 15-18, and 20-23

Claims 2-7, 10-13, 15-18, and 20-23 are dependent on claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 24 and 25, respectively, and include all of their limitations. Accordingly, claims 2-7, 10-13, 15-18, and 20-23 are not made obvious by Judson in view of Pike if claims 1, 8, 14, 19, 24 and 25 are not made obvious by Judson in view of Pike

IV. Fees

Applicants do not believe that any fees are associated with this preliminary amendment. However, the Patent Office is authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to deposit account 09-0465.

IV. Conclusion

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and a prompt and favorable allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner, upon considering this amendment, thinks that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, he/she is respectfully urged to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that the enclosed or attached correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 21, 2002.



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Serial No.: 10/058,360